



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of sharing information among a plurality of stations on a communications network, each of the stations being capable of transmitting and receiving frames over the communications network. A group of agreed-upon flags is established, periodic timing is provided in each station that expires after an interval, and a common frame format is defined providing the capability of specifying a current transmit flag set, an old transmit flag set, and a current receive flag set. Each station maintains: a current transmit state set, a recent and previous timer expiration set, and a current and previous transmit received set. A control frame is generated and transmitted by a transmitting station to all other stations on the communications network each time a flag in a logical union of current transmit flag sets is set and upon the expiration of the timer in the transmitting station.